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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MORPC Seeks Comments on Prioritizing Transportation Projects**

**(Columbus – August 10, 2009)** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is seeking comments on prioritizing 15 projects seeking selection or funding from the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The TRAC has accepted Major/New Project applications for their 2009 project selection round. Major/New Projects are transportation projects that have a total project cost greater than \$5 million and do one or more of the following:

- increase mobility
- reduce congestion
- provide connectivity
- increase the accessibility of a region for economic development
- increase the capacity of a transportation facility

The 15 TRAC projects to be prioritized from the MORPC area include:

- Carroll Interchange – Construction of the Carroll Interchange on US 33. \$64.80 million
- ODOT District 5 I-70 Widening – Widen I-70 to six lanes between existing six lane facility in Fairfield County and fish hatchery bridge in Licking County. \$153.60 million
- Reconstruct the SR 256 Interchange and Taylor Road off ramp. \$239.40 million
- North High Street – Widen North High Street between Flint Road and Lazelle Road by one lane each direction. \$5.30 million
- Veterans Parkway – Study, design and construction of a 3.9 mile limited access bypass. No funding requested.
- I-270/US 33 - Planning studies to improve the I-270/US 33/SR 161 interchange. \$9.60 million
- I-71/SR 665 Interchange – Replace an existing freeway interchange. Move project from Tier II to Tier I. No funding requested.
- SR 315/I-70/I-71 Reconstruction – Modify I-70/SR 315 interchange and reconfigure travel lanes. \$562 million

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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- Far East Freeway Study – US 33 at Petzinger Road interchange, I-70 at Hamilton Road interchange, I-70 at I-270 and Brice Road interchanges and I-70 at SR 256 and Taylor Road interchanges. Environmental and cost implications. \$3.50 million
- I-270 South Outerbelt – I-270/US 23, I-270/I-71 and I-71/Stringtown Road interchanges and portions of I-71 and I-270 in southern Franklin County. Environmental and cost implications. \$2.50 million
- I-270 South Widening – Widen from two to four lanes in each direction on I-270 between I-71 and US 23. \$6,357,000
- I-71 Morrow/Delaware – Widen from two to three lanes in each direction between Galena Road in Delaware County and the Morrow/Richland County line. \$7.03 million
- I-71 South – Widen from two to three lanes between Pickaway/Franklin County line to just south of Stringtown Road. \$3,781,000
- SR 257-750 Realignment – Right-of-way and construction for widening SR 750. \$6.50 million
- E/W Connector – Pickaway East-West Connector is a proposed four-lane roadway from Rickenbacker Airport to US 23. \$35.50 million

MORPC anticipates recommending regional priorities for adoption during the September business meetings with final approval at MORPC's Policy Committee on Sept. 10 at 1:30 p.m. These priorities will be transmitted to TRAC shortly thereafter and a presentation of them will be made to TRAC in the fall.

For more information visit [morpc.org](http://morpc.org). Comments can be sent to the attention of Daniel Haake by letter, fax (614-233-4249), or e-mail ([dhaake@morpc.org](mailto:dhaake@morpc.org)) to arrive no later than August 31.

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.